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Message Text

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14
ACTION VO-03

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 SCA-01 CU-02 CIAE-00 FBIE-00

INSE-00 NSAE-00 /017 W
---------- 120005
R 061125Z JAN 76
FM AMEMBASSY DOHA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1157
INFO RUQMBI/AMEMBASSY ABU DHAB 0436
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

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DEPT FOR SCA, CU/NEA AND NEA/ARP

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PFOR CVIS US QA
SUBJ: ISSUANCE OF A-2 VISAS TO ARABIAN PENINSULA STUDENTS:
VISIT OF QATARI MINISTRY OF EDUCATION OFFICIAL TO U.S.

REF: STATE 0235, 75 DOHA 1469, 75 DOHA 1420, DOHA 0012

1. DOHA 0012 OUTLINES ITINERARY AND PROGRAM FOR VISIT TO US
OF ABDUL AZIZ BIN TURKI, ASSISTANT DIRECTOR OF QATARI MINISTRY
OF EDUCATION. ONE OF PRINCIPAL PURPOSES OF TURKI'S VISIT IS TO
DISCUSS A-2 VISA PROBLEM WITH APPROPRIATE DEPT OFFICIALS. HE
WILL BE IN WASHINGTON JAN 11-14.

2. TURKI CALLED AT EMBASSY TO DISCUSS HIS TRIP WITH AMBASSADOR
ON JAN 6. HE DEVOTED MOST OF CONVERSATION TO DETAILED PROTEST
OF DISCRIMINATORY TREATMENT AGAINST QATARI STUDENTS OCCASIONED
BY DISCONTINUANCE OF A-2 VISAS TO QATARIS WHILE SAUDI AND KUWAITI
STUDENTS CONTINUE TO RECEIVE THEM. HE ALSO DESCRIBED DIFFICULTIES
THIS ACTION HAD CAUSED GOQ'S ADMINISTERING ITS STUDENT PROGRAM
IN US ALONG VERY SIMILAR LINES TO THOSE REPORTED IN ABU DHABI
0017. ACCORDING TURKI, MINED AND QATARI EMBASSY IN WASHINGTON
BEING DELUGED BY STUDENTS' COMPLAINTS.
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3. IN ACCORDANCE WITH STATE REFTEL, WE AGAIN EXPLAINED TO TURKI THAT A-2 VISAS FOR ANY GULF STUDENTS WILL SOON BE A THING OF THE PAST, AND NEW SYSTEM BEING DEVISED BY DEPT IN CONSULTATION WITH CONCERNED EMBASSIES IN WASHINGTON TO BE UNIFORMLY APPLIED IN AREA. TURKI RESPONDED THAT HE HAD HEARD SOMETHING ABOUT USING "J" VISA CATEGORY, BUT HE PRESSED QUESTION OF PRESENT DISCRIMINATORY TREATMENT AND WE DID NOT HAVE AN ADEQUATE ANSWER.

4. COMMENT: DEPT HAS STUDIOUSLY AVOIDED GIVING US STRAIGHT ANSWER TO QATARI CHARGES OF DISCRIMINATION. IT NOW HAS OPPORTUNITY TO PROVIDE EXPLANATION DIRECTLY TO GOQ REP AND WE HOPE SOMETHING ADEQUATE CAN BE SAID TO REMOVE THIS IRRITATION. WE REQUEST THAT CONVERSATIONS WITH TURKI ON THIS SUBJECT BE FULLY REPORTED TO US BE TELEGRAM SO THAT WE CAN HAVE FULL PICTURE OF DEPT POSITION PRESENTED TO TURKI BEFORE HE RETURNS TO DOHA. IT SHOULD BE NOTED THAT TURKI'S ENGLISH IS VERY LIMITED AND AN ABLE INTERPRETER WILL BE REQUIRED.
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